THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Bringing of common user items on Rate Contracts is a continuous process and the number of such items does not remain constant. As on 27-7-93 there were 224 number of items for which Rate Contracts were valid and there were another 53 items for which rate contracts were not valid.

(c) While every effort is made to finalise R/Cs in time, delays at times are unavoidable due to several reasons, some of which are decontrol of prices of essential raw materials, changes in duty structure, litigation, lack of drawals etc.

(d) The Government had reviewed the working of the DGS&D at the time of deciding on decentralisation of certain purchase functions which have been transferred to other Ministries/Departments. Some of the important steps which have been taken in the recent past are:

(i) Close monitoring of R/Cs with a view to avoid any delay in finalisation of Rate Contracts;

(ii) Creation of a separate cell in the DGS&D to exclusively cater to the procurement needs of various projects assisted by World Bank/International Agencies.

(iii) Giving necessary thrust and impetus for procurement of more sophisticated and high tech. items and cutting down on procurement of traditional items.

(iv) Extending computerisation to cover essential functions/activities.

Production and Export of Earl Grey Tea

535. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production and sale of Earl Grey Tea produced by the Tea Trading Corporation of India during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of Earl Grey Tea exported during the same period;

(c) whether the TTCI has entered into any agreement with the Twinings company of U. K. which produces the Earl Grey Tea; and

(d) what are the herbs with which Indian Tea is blended in order to produce the Earl Grey Tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Total Quantities of tea with Earl Grey flavour produced and exported by TTCI during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Quantity (in Kgs.)
1990-91	79.68
1991-92	18.00
1992-93	Nil

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Earl Grey is a flavouring agent which is reportedly sprayed on tea under certain predetermined conditions. No herb as such is reportedly blended with tea to make it Earl Grey Tea.

Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics

536. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present set up of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics;

(b) whether the Statistics collected by the Directorate is made available to the Members of Parliament;

(c) what are the publications of this Directorate; and

(d) what is the annual expenditure incurred on this Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, a subordinate office of Ministry of Commerce, is the primary agency of the Government for collection, compilation, processing and dissemina-